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● **SYMPOSIUM: The Benefit and Price of Fiscal Decentralization in China**

Introduction Guang Zhang 1

Leviathan Hypothesis, Fiscal Decentralization and Government Expansion: Evidence from Chinese Provincial Panel Data from 1997 to 2009 Yuyi Zhuang & Guang Zhang 5

Abstract The Leviathan model hypothesizes that fiscal decentralization would help to control government size. A major reason for the denial of this hypothesis by previous empirical research at the Chinese provincial level is the failure to use effective decentralization measures. In this paper, we measure fiscal decentralization as the proportions of sub-provincial revenues and expenditures to the total provincial revenues and expenditures, and utilize a Chinese provincial panel dataset to test how fiscal decentralization would determine government size. It is found that the Leviathan model is applicable to the Chinese provincial level since fiscal decentralization helps to control government size, while intergovernmental transfers tend to increase it. We also find that local governments are responsive to local public service demands and to the competitive pressure and social risks brought by openness.

Key Words Leviathan Hypothesis; Fiscal Decentralization; Government Size; Provinces

Is It a Sustainable Economic Great Leap? —A Fiscal Analysis of Chongqing's Rapid Economic Growth Yu You 27

Abstract The rapid economic growth in Chongqing receives great attention and many studies summarize the achievements and experience of Chongqing's economic growth. Based on Chongqing's main source of economic growth, the structure of its fiscal revenue and expenditure, and its local fiscal balance, this paper studies Chongqing's economic growth from the public finance perspective and analyzes the panel data of fiscal balance of

the district and county government in Chongqing. As a result of this study, this paper argues that the fiscal structures closely related to the rapid economic growth are the strength of resources' absorption in land finance, the heavy investment in fixed assets and the wide gap between the government financial revenue and expenditure. Furthermore, the growth of investment in fixed assets and non fixed assets expenditures, the bank financing of liabilities and the investment plan after the financial crisis have significant impacts on the expanding gap between government financial revenue and expenditure. Going forward, great import should be attached to Chongqing's financial and management risk exposure.

Key Words Economic Growth; Land Finance; Local Government Investment; Local Government Debt; Government's Fiscal Action

The Real Risk of China's Sub-national Debt: the Risk Beyond Default

..... Chunrong Zheng 52

Abstract Over the past two decades, debt financing methods have helped China's local governments build badly needed infrastructure, thereby achieving great development, improving people's lives. However, the negative effects cannot be ignored. Although the overall risk of default for China's local government debt is rather small, the more frightening aspect of these methods is that local debt financing disrupts traditional fiscal management rules, so much so that the local government itself is becoming the "Leviathan", and thereby creating new risks. These risks include: government intervention in microeconomic business, crowding out private sector investment and financing, resulting in retrogression in China's market economy mechanism; local government debt financing costs are close to zero inviting a recessive plunder of the income of private sector deposits; debt funding of local government investment in blind decision-making, engineering corruption and waste of assets; and, the existence of local government debt, also created by the local government but off-budget, means a modern fiscal system cannot be established, undermining the unity of the budget. To eliminate these risks of local government debt, our government needs to: establish a mechanism for the phase separation of operating income and revenue (income and expenditure of debt

items should be made directly on the budget arrangements approved by the legislative body), establish hard constraints on the financial markets and remove the interest rate regulation.

Key Words Local Government Debt; Financing Vehicle; Government Investment; Soft Budget Constraint

● ARTICLES

Social Welfare, Effective Governance and Development—The Case of South Korea

..... Stein Ringen, Huck-ju Kwon, Ilcheon Yi, Taekyoon Kim & Jooha Lee 77

Abstract In two generations, South Korea realised three great developmental achievements. First, poverty was turned to prosperity. Second, a social safety net was spread in the population so that eventually no significant section is excluded from the benefits of economic advancement. Third, dictatorship was turned to democracy. Korean development has been state led and has been seen as the outcome of strong government. This is an explanation, however, that, although not wrong, needs to be deepened, modified and nuanced. It is true that South Korean development has been state led but just what kind of leadership did the state provide and how was it able to provide effective leadership? One feature of authoritarian rule in South Korea is that social policy featured centrally from the very start. We seek to elucidate the South Korean brand of governance through the prism of social policy. We pursue two aims, first to explore ‘the developmental welfare state’ and then to use welfare state analysis as an entry into state analysis more generally. Our intuition was to uncover the workings of the Korean state in some detail by observing its use of social policy as a tool of governance.

Key Words Social Policy; Social Welfare; Welfare State; Governance; South Korea

Developing Path, Influencing Factors and Evaluation System of Public Service Standardization—A Case Study of Shangcheng District of Hangzhou

..... Changmei Yin & Yue Zhuo 93

Abstract The public service standardization, emanating from the process of

standardization and a service oriented government , as well as normalization constructions , has been recognized as a sort of innovation practice of government management. Based on innovation paths of public service standardization , together with influencing factors for sustainability , this essay discusses sustainability models for public service standardization. Alluding to formal descriptive assessment methods for indicators determined previously , this essay , in turn , builds an evaluation system for a sustainability model. Furthermore , with applications for the normative case study method , the author ultimately verified the public service standardization system , which was previously implemented by Shangcheng. However , the final conclusion is that public service standardization varies progressively with the time duration and spatial extension from the perspective of both microcosmic and macroscopic study.

Key Words Public Service Standardization ; Developing Sustainability ; Case Verifying

Who Affected The Media Agenda-setting on Chinese Housing Issues? A Comparative Case Study of Chinese New Express Daily and Southern Metropolis Daily

..... Yapeng Zhu & Diwen Xiao 121

Abstract Media agenda is one of the crucial parts in policy issues formulation in China. Based on the comparison of news reports from two daily newspapers in Guangzhou , on the same housing issues , this paper finds that local governments , media owners , real estate developers , advertisers and the journalists used various powerful strategies to affect different stages of the media agenda setting process. All of them tried to make the media agenda setting follow their will. The media owners and the real estate developers , representatives of market force , owned the most powerful strategies to affect the newspapers' revenue making and lead to discrepant reports on the same housing issues. It could shed light on the public participation and interaction mechanism among social groups in China.

Key Words Housing ; Media Agenda ; Agenda Setting

● THEORETICAL REVIEWS

How to Examine Chinese NGO-State Relations Wenyu Tang 145

Abstract Because of the special historical background and political setting of China, academia at home and abroad shows keen interest in NGO-state relations in Post-Mao China, mainly through developing the theoretical models of civil society and privatization perspective which are inclined to be zero-sum game theory, the theoretical models of corporatism and organizational perspective which are inclined to be cooperation theory, along with the theoretical models of multi-models and graduated controls which are inclined to be holistic theory. This article, centering on these theoretical models, reviews the related studies on Chinese NGO-state relations, and points out the theoretical risk of model-oriented study and the direction of moving towards issue-oriented study.

Key Words China; NGO; State; Theoretical Model

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